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There are many journalists here, "clouds of them", one paper says, "from Indianapolis to Athens, from Moscow to Milan." There are also many persons from among the peace workers in different countries. The Conference is really an affair of the world, and not of the few official personages who will furnish the talking and planning and conclusions in the Orange Hall. The Baroness von Suttner, whose "Lay Down Your Arms" has impressed every quarter of Europe, is here with the Baron. So is Mr. Bliokh, whose recent work has made all the Continent knit its brow. Mr. Stead, the Peter the Hermit of the Peace Crusade, is on the ground, and I hear of others on the way and to come later. I hope we shall all be able to help some by contributing to the general spirit of the occasion if nothing more. I see no reason yet for changing my opinion that good results are to come from the Conference. The London papers yesterday had a very significant utterance, made the night before by the English Liberal leader, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, in which he deplored that in any quarter the Conference should be ridiculed or belittled in advance.

The opening exercises of the Conference yesterday were very simple and lasted only about twenty minutes. Mr. de Beaufort, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, made an address of welcome, which I shall give in full in a subsequent number of the *ADVOCATE*. Mr. de Staal, the Russian Ambassador to Great Britain, who was made President of the Conference, briefly expressed thanks to the Queen of Holland and her government for the hospitality extended to the delegates, and to the delegates themselves for their presence. On Mr. de Staal's proposition Mr. de Beaufort was made Honorary President. The Vice-Presidency went to Germany. On the proposition of Mr. de Beaufort a telegram was sent to the Emperor of Russia and one to Queen Wilhelmina. After the appointment of the Secretaries the Conference adjourned till Saturday.

The subjects before the Conference will be examined by sectional committees under three heads, (a) arbitration and mediation, (b) disarmament and kindred questions, and (c) Geneva Convention, Rules and Customs of War, etc. The delegates are very reticent about their instructions, and it is not possible now to tell how long the Conference will last.

The Hague, May 19.

B. F. T.

### Editorial Notes.

On Tuesday, May 9th, the W. C. T. U. was in charge of the noon meeting in Tremont Temple, Boston. At none of the Peace Crusade meetings has the speaking been of a higher or truer

tone. "Forty-five minutes of superb talk" is the language in which it was characterized by Mary A. Livermore, who was to have been the last speaker, but did not speak because of the lateness of the hour. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Katherine L. Stevenson, who said that the meeting was held, in part, because of orders from W. C. T. U. headquarters to hold peace meetings everywhere. She spoke briefly of the way in which war wrecks men physically and morally through intemperance and other vices. Rev. W. T. McElvern spoke of the attitude which the Christian ministry should, but does not always, take on the subject. But one position can possibly be taken, and if the Christian church is true to itself it will always express its abhorrence of war and pronounce a benediction on every heroic effort for peace. Mrs. J. K. Barney of Rhode Island, who has been all round the world in the interests of the White Ribbon movement, spoke most persuasively of the way in which the women's sisterhood of service, which she illustrated with incidents from her travels, may promote the sisterhood of nations. She felt that much of what has been recently happening cannot bear the test of the searchlight of the century about to open. Dr. Everett D. Burr gave a short but most eloquent and inspiring address on the great Christian law of community of service. Society must be lifted together. One member cannot suffer without all the members suffering with it. This is as true in international affairs as anywhere. There are no longer any foreign lands. The American flag symbolizes the great principle of community of interests and it is a monstrous travesty of its meaning if in the Orient or anywhere else it is made to stand for war and subjugation.

The Peace Crusade meeting in Tremont Temple, Monday noon, April 24th, was in the hands of the United Society of Christian Endeavor. Dr. Francis E. Clark presided and spoke of the sad effects of war in Cuba, which he had just visited. Mr. Shaw, business manager of the *Christian Endeavor World*, read a number of letters from prominent men in this country and Europe, expressing strong approval of the course taken by the Endeavor Society in entering so heartily and largely into the war against war. The chief speaker of the occasion was Joseph Cook, who had not spoken in Boston since his health gave way some years ago. He spoke with much of his old time vigor, and received a grand welcome when he rose to speak. He spoke of the broadening of suffrage, the progress of liberty, intelligence and Christian principles, of speed of intercommunication, as hastening the abolition of war. Wars are now more limited in time and space. The growing deadliness of military weapons, the cost of war in blood and treasure, call aloud to earth and heaven for its abolition. The very selfishness of trade may bring

Temperance  
Women.

about a consecration of commerce. The fact that the sky is now the roof of but one family emphasizes the supreme demands of Christianity. The desirability of avoiding war is now conceded except by heated barbarism in politics and cormorant carelessness in commerce. Mr. Cook spoke of the cases settled by arbitration, of the desirability of a permanent international tribunal, and of what David Dudley Field called a league of nations. Even if a peace league were established only within the far-spread dominions of the Anglo-Saxon family, it might settle many of the disturbing questions of the world. Mr. Cook thought the Czar's conduct toward Finland not in harmony with his call for a disarmament Conference, but the Conference ought to be made a trumpet calling the whole earth to peace. Others who spoke briefly were Mary Clement Leavitt, Rev. A. A. Berle, and Dr. Edward Everett Hale.

**National W. C. T. U.** The Peace Department of the National W. C. T. U. considers the Conference at The Hague as "the beginning of the end of wars." The following resolution was passed by the Union at its last annual convention: "We are in favor of a permanent system of arbitration for all civilized nations, and hail with enthusiasm the valorous declaration of Nicholas II., Czar of Russia, against the ruinous armaments of the world, and in favor of an international peace conference." Since then, the *Union Signal* says, the officers of the sixty state and territorial unions have signed similar papers in the name of their several constituencies, expressing satisfaction at the coming together of the representatives of the Powers to consider this important subject, and they most earnestly pray that "effectual means may be found whereby universal peace may be brought about and thereafter maintained throughout the world." These are accompanied by a document signed by the general officers and the National Superintendent of the Department of Peace and Arbitration, of which the closing paragraph reads: "We pray that you may not close your Conference until you have come to some conclusions which will result in hastening the time when the unreasonable methods of cruel warfare shall give place to reasonable arbitration in settling national and international disputes." The State Superintendents of peace and arbitration and the general officers of the W. C. T. U. have been holding meetings in their several communities to promote public interest in the Conference at The Hague. For these the National Superintendent provided a suggestive program.

**Court of the Small Powers.** Early this year Mr. Frederic Passy, the distinguished French Peace Advocate, addressed a letter to the young Queen of Holland, urging her to take the initiative in trying to induce

a number of the secondary powers to institute by treaty among themselves a permanent court of arbitration for the settlement of such differences as may arise between them in the future. The Dutch ambassador at Paris has informed Mr. Passy of the great interest with which Queen Wilhelmina has read his letter. Mr. Passy has also received a number of private letters from Holland indicating the great impression which his letter, published in the newspapers, has produced. The hope is expressed by prominent men in Holland that some way be found of carrying out the suggestion. The small powers, if such a step should be taken, may thus lead the way in the accomplishment of what the great powers ought to lead in, but which they have so far failed to do, because of their ambitions and mutual fears. There is one difficulty in the way of anything being accomplished in this direction, and that is the manner in which the secondary powers are overshadowed in international affairs by the great powers. This renders them slow to take any important step of this kind. No action, certainly will be taken in this sense until after the Conference at The Hague. If the results of The Hague deliberations shall be such as many are hoping, in the matter of a general system of arbitration, there will then be no need of separate action by the governments of the smaller states. Otherwise, the way will be open for the government of Holland to proceed in accordance with Mr. Passy's suggestion. Now that Italy and the Argentine Republic have an established treaty for the adjustment of their difficulties by a court of arbitration, there is no reason why Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark and other secondary states may not take with every hope of success, the initiative in creating an arbitration tribunal of a still wider international character. By inaugurating a movement to this end, the young Queen of Holland may as justly lay all mankind under obligation to her as the Emperor of the great domain of Russia has done.

**The Samoan Trouble.** The troubles of the past few months in Samoa, and the strained relations between the United States, Great Britain and Germany which they have threatened, recall what Secretary Gresham said in 1894 in regard to the tripartite Berlin convention as to the protectorate or rather government of Samoa:

"In our relations to Samoa we have made the first departure from our traditional and well-established policy of avoiding entangling alliances with foreign Powers in relation to objects remote from this hemisphere. Like all other human transactions, the wisdom of that departure must be tested by its fruits. . . . Every nation, and especially every strong nation, must sometimes be conscious of an impulse to rush into difficulties that do not concern it except in a highly imaginative way. . . . But our first adventure in that direction afforded most signal and convincing proof that the only

safeguard against all the evils of interference in affairs that do not specially concern us is to abstain from such interference altogether. . . . The general act of Berlin has utterly failed to correct, if indeed it has not aggravated, the very evils which it was designed to prevent."

The bad fruits of the entanglement in Samoa have more than justified Mr. Gresham's advice. We ought to have kept out of it in the first instance. We ought to get out of it now. A simple protectorate of the three powers, the "hands off" policy, the natives being left to their own government, might work. But a British—American—German—Samoan—Consul-General—Chief-Justice—War-ship government,—nothing could be much more incongruous. War between the three great nations involved may be avoided this time, and the Commission just sent out may arrive at some temporary adjustment, but if the present mode of government is continued it means trouble in the future. The Samoan and Philippine first fruits of our entrance upon the career of a so-called world-power bodes anything but peace either to ourselves or others. It is a policy of blood, as it has been with every European power from the beginning.

The Ludicrous-  
ness of it.

Ernest Howard Crosby, in *The Coming Age*, in an article urging that the opportunity offered by the Czar's Conference be made the most of, writes thus:

"I am inclined to think that the most effective way to approach the subject is on its ludicrous side. It is really a matter for opera bouffe, this business of armaments. If only Gilbert and Sullivan had depicted a neighborhood organized on the same principle! Fancy all the householders of a village day after day bringing into their homes new catapults and blunderbusses, watching each other from the windows, each one trying to scrape money together to buy two weapons when his neighbor buys one, practicing at shooting at the mark with their families in the back-yard, going barefooted and hungry so as to pay the gun-smith's bill, treating each other with the most punctilious politeness meanwhile, and in twenty long years never so much as shaking a fist at each other, and yet making greater preparations for a row than ever! Even in Kentucky such a comic opera would bring down the house. Now, imagine in such a community that one of these starving householders suggests a conference to spare himself the necessity of spending the best part of his income next year on bludgeons and battering-rams. The meeting is convened under safe conducts in a room bristling with bayonets and smelling of powder. Is it really possible that these honest gentlemen could look each other in the eye with a straight face? I doubt it, and if the diplomats and courtiers of Europe,—and alas, the statesmen and politicians of America as well,—were not steeped in an atmosphere of the most ridiculous make-believe, they too would find it easy to bring the whole absurd system to an end in a hearty fit of laughter. Oh, for a little of that sense of humor which we think we have, and which we so sorely need!"

## Brevities.

. . . Mr. Thomas Willing Balch of Philadelphia we are glad to see has just published a new edition of the little book entitled "International Courts of Arbitration", first published by his father Thomas Balch in 1874. The book which was noticed in these columns some time ago, gives an interesting account of the movement of opinion which led to the Alabama arbitrations. The publishers are Henry T. Coates and Co., Philadelphia.

. . . Dr. Frederic R. Marvin of Albany sends us a copy of a little book of his entitled "Christ Among the Cattle", published by J. O. Wright and Co., New York. It states the argument for the immortality of animals in as strong a light as is probably possible. It cites the opinions of a number of eminent men—Agassiz and Whittier among them—who have believed in the immortality of animals. It is a beautiful book, in make-up, in thought and in spirit.

. . . Rabbi Hirsch of Chicago says that "triumphant democracy cannot wear the helmet of the war-god. Aggression cannot be its temper. It must be a prince of peace. Militarism shall have no apologists and prophets among a free people. The plough, and not the sword, is the emblem of the people's consecration to the ideals of liberty.

. . . Ex-President Harrison is to be the leading counsel of Venezuela before the Anglo-Venezuelan Arbitration Tribunal which is to meet in Paris this summer for the settlement of the Venezuela boundary question. Otherwise it is said that he would have been the chairman of the delegation to the Czar's Conference at The Hague.

. . . "Take a hundred ruffians out of any Anglo-Saxon city, wash, dress, feed and arm them, and they will storm batteries, capture cities at the point of the bayonet, and die in heaps for their party; yet they are but ruffians."—*Ian Maclaren*.

. . . William T. Stead has published under the title, "The United States of Europe", his observations during his tour of Europe made last autumn in the interest of the Czar's Conference.

. . . In the March number of *Education* President Ethelbert D. Warfield, of Lafayette College, Pa., discussed the subject of "International Sympathy" in a short but strong and lucid paper.

. . . Out of the 180 members of the Danish Parliament 111 are members of the Inter-parliamentary Peace Union. An address to the Danish government in support of the Czar's rescript has been signed by nearly 300,000 out of the 2,000,000 of inhabitants.

. . . The annual meeting of the French International Arbitration Society was held on the 21st of March. The chief feature of the meeting was a brilliant address by Dr. Charles Richet of the Sorbonne in reply to recent strictures made by Mr. Ferdinand Brunetiere.

. . . The report that the circulation of Mr. Stead's Peace Crusade paper, *War Against War*, was forbidden in Russia proves to be without foundation. The Baroness von Suttner's great romance, "Lay Down Your Arms", also circulates without opposition in the Czar's dominions.